

Office of the Mayor
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PROCLAMATION



May 2004

ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of May has been designated to honor the Asian and Pacific American Heritage, as proclaimed in Congress by Joint Resolution 540 and later by House Joint Resolution 1007, and this national observance has been celebrated for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the District's Asian and Pacific Americans represent a most diverse ethnic community whose members come from a wide variety of cultural, religious, and political backgrounds, speak dozens of different languages or dialects, and have interwoven their traditions and heritages into the ethnic fabric of this city; and

WHEREAS, the District's Chinatown, established more than a century ago, symbolizes the history and contributions of early immigrants from Asia, and the city has since opened its arms to an increasing number of immigrants from China, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, and so many other nations; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the District of Columbia has recently signed into law the Language Access Act of 2003 passed by the Council of the District of Columbia to make government programs and services more accessible to the District's fast growing Asian and Pacific American community, many of whose members are residents with limited English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, during this month, many community members, organizations and government agencies will celebrate and recognize the contributions of Asian and Pacific Americans to the political, social, economic, and cultural diversity of this city:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2004, as "**ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**" in Washington, D.C.

- Anthony A. Williams

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor, District of Columbia